

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO USCINCEUR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 511

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

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CNO WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9340

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF MAAG

1. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW, BOTH FORMER AMBASSADOR HUMMEL AND MYSELF HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH CHMAAG A PROPOSAL DEVELOPED BY HIM TO REORGANIZE MAAG ETHIOPIA ALONG FUNCTIONAL RATHER THAN THE PRESENT SERVICE LINES. FROM THE OUTSET, WE FELT THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD GREAT MERIT GIVEN WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE MAAG'S PRIORITIES HERE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE ALL MUST OPERATE. I UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAS BEEN RELUCTANCE TO IMPLEMENT IT. I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO RECORD NOW MY SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL, AND TO URGE THAT IT BE REEXAMINED.

2. CHMAAG'S ANALYSIS OF OCT 1975 OF THE MOST CRITICAL NEEDS OF THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY FORCES (EMF) CONCLUDED THAT AN ALMOST TOTALLY NEW AND FULLY SCALE ADVISORY EFFORT WAS REQUIRED DOWN TO UNIT LEVEL BECAUSE OF THE UPHEAVAL IN THE SERVICES DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE REVOLUTION, BUT THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF USG RESOURCES REQUIRED MADE THIS SIMPLY INFEASIBLE. AS A SUBSTITUTE, CHMAAG BELIEVED MAAG
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SHOULD FOCUS ON THE MOST GLARING EMF DEFICIENCIES/REQUIRE-

MENTS, CORRECTION OF WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO EMF'S HANDLING OTHER PROBLEMS ON THEIR OWN WITH MINIMAL AND INCIDENTAL MAAG ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE. SPECIFICALLY, THESE WERE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLANNING-PROGRAMMING-BUDGETING SYSTEM, SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OF LOGISTICS SYSTEM AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, AND ASSISTANCE IN MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIFIC, MAJOR PROGRAMS -- PRIMARILY THE INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR NEW WEAPON SYSTEMS AND MATERIEL INTO EMF INTENTORIES.

3. AS INDICATED, I CONCURRED ENTIRELY WITH THIS APPROACH. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, IT CUTS ACROSS SERVICE LINES AND BECAUSE IT DOES, MAAG, IN MY JUDGMFNT SHOULD BE STAFFED ACCORDINGLY IF MAAG IS TO GIVE IT MAXIMUM SUPPORT. I BELIEVE THE MAAG REORGANIZATION PLAN WOULD ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE AND THAT IT IS NOW LONG OVERDUE. I WOULD HOPE THAT IT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED ASAP.
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